

Schedule for EIS/R and Selection of a Preferred Alternative

Memorandum

Date: May 29, 1998

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

*X. Hamed
for Snow*

Subject: Revised Schedule for EIS/R

Summary

At the May 1 CALFED Policy Group meeting, the Policy Group agreed to provide an extension to the comment period with details to be agreed to within the first week of May. The final decision was to prepare a Revised Draft EIS/R by the end of 1998 and also extend the comment period for the Revised Draft to July 1, 1998. Policy Group will discuss the process and timetable to meet the new schedule for the release of the Revised Draft EIS/R.

Detailed Discussion

Attached is the current schedule for preparing the Revised Draft EIS/R. The release of the draft is scheduled for December 15, 1998. In order to meet that date, the basic framework for the preferred alternative needs to be agreed upon by the August Policy Group meeting. At the September through November Policy Group meetings, further discussion will occur to refine the linkages and conditions related to the preferred alternative and all elements of the Program. The Revised Phase II Report will be prepared on a later schedule but released at the same time as the Revised Draft EIS/R. This will allow for further discussion of issues, linkages and assurances as late as November and still meet the December 15 deadline.

Since not all issues will be resolved before the Revised Draft, issues identified in the initial Phase II Report and other issues that arise will be grouped in one of three categories. Issues to be resolved:

- Prior to the Revised Draft EIS/R and selection of a preferred alternative
- Prior to the Final EIS/R
- Prior to Implementation/Construction

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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To meet this tight schedule, we have established a process for discussion and resolution of the critical issues associated with the Revised Draft. As described in the attached memo regarding the Agency Review Team (ART), a process has been established to discuss and resolve issues if possible at the agency staff level and elevate issues if necessary for discussion and resolution to the CALFED Management Team and Policy Group.

Action Required

This is an information and discussion item.

Attachments